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Important as the qualities he possessed are to the making of a man, they are no less so to the making of a community. And in any constitutional country no small part of the value of a man lies in his value as a citizen. Indirect as well as direct his influence may be, and with universal suffrage the former is apt to be the case with the best men. To be determined, discerning, and honest does not, unfortunately, in our system of supposed political equality, lead to purely civic distinction. For the choice of a popular suffrage cannot rise above its source. But if the qualities do not lead to civic distinction for their possessor they do something as enduring, — they tend to raise to his level the community of which he forms a part. For without the first attribute, nothing is possible; without the second, foolishness; without the third, knavery. The apathy of most of us, the crankiness of a few, and the financial trickery of others, are the several results of the absence of these qualities.

Too strong a personality to be generally popular, recognition of such a character is slow. For we are all prone to praise what we like. Only when distance does away with personal perspective do men, like hills, reveal their height.

Posterity gives the final judgment. For posterity judges of a man's worth unhaloed by the engaging lack of it, and sets the seal of its appreciation upon those who have contributed to the world's advance and incidentally to posterity's own existence. To make for this advance is the best any man can do, and to this end to be determined, discerning, and honest is one of the surest means. If a man possess these attributes he will not have lived in vain.

PERCIVAL LOWELL.

TRUMAN HENRY SAFFORD.

TRUMAN HENRY SAFFORD was born January 6, 1836, at Royalton, Vermont. The course of his life was determined by a phenomenal capacity for the mental solution of arithmetical problems, which began to display itself when he was only six years old. This faculty, which might under easily conceivable circumstances have been wasted in mere display for the amusement of the curious, fortunately attracted the attention of judicious and eminent men, and thus secured for him the advantages of a thorough education. He graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1854, which he joined at the beginning of its Junior year. As a boy he had computed an almanac, and given other evidences of interest in astronomy, and capacity for it; and immediately after his graduation he obtained employment at Harvard College Observatory, where he continued for nearly twelve years. He married Elizabeth M. Bradbury, of Cambridge, in March, 1860, "on six hundred dollars a year," as he once told the writer of this notice; for astronomy has never been a promising road to riches for young Americans insufficiently endowed with the practical turn of mind generally regarded as characteristic of their countrymen. He was elected Fellow of the Academy, Nov. 13, 1861.

Safford's position at Cambridge, if not pecuniarily advantageous, offered him in some other respects greater advantages than, perhaps, he could secure in later life; for he had here comparatively few hindrances to the undisturbed development of his scientific abilities. Accordingly, the results of his work soon began to make him widely and favorably known in astronomical circles. One of the most generally interesting of these investigations related to the orbital movement of Sirius. Many years before, the observed want of uniformity in the proper motion of this star had led astronomers to the belief that it formed one of a system of bodies revolving about a common centre of gravity; its companion, or companions, as the case might be, being too faint to be visible, at least with the existing instrumental means. Still more recently, the character of the supposed revolution of Sirius had been discussed by means of its right ascensions, as observed at different times. Safford now undertook a similar discussion of its observed declinations, and after combining the result of this work with that previously found, on the supposition that only one disturbing body occasioned the observed effects, was able to indicate its direction from Sirius at the time, in excellent agreement with the actual place of the companion discovered almost simultaneously by the younger Alvan Clark.

A catalogue of the declinations of five hundred and thirty-two stars, intended for use in the government survey of the lake region, was prepared by Safford during his connection with Harvard College Observatory, and probably marks the beginning of the geodetic work which occupied a large part of his time in later years.

In 1863 he received the formal title of Assistant Observer; and two years later, upon the death of Professor G. P. Bond, he was placed in charge of the Observatory. At this time, he completed and prepared for publication Professor Bond's researches on the nebula of Orion, which appeared as Volume V. of the Observatory Annals. Volume IV. of the same series is also the work of Safford. The first part, dealing with the preparation of a list of fundamental stars for transit observations, was published in 1863. By means of these fundamental stars, the right ascensions of five hundred and five stars were determined by observations in the years 1862 to 1865; the second part of the volume, containing the result of this work, appeared in 1878.

In 1866 Safford was appointed director of the Dearborn Observatory at Chicago, which had recently been provided with the large refracting telescope, by means of which, while still in its maker's hands, the companion of Sirius had been discovered. This position, with which was connected a professorship of astronomy in the University, seemed to offer the fairest prospect of permanent and congenial employment to its occupant; but the disastrous fire which destroyed so large a part of Chicago in 1871 deprived the Observatory of the financial support upon which its activity depended. Professor Safford, accordingly, now found it necessary to maintain his family by geodetic work connected with the government surveys. He had undertaken the observation of one of the zones of stars distributed among various observatories under the general system arranged by the Astronomische Gesellschaft; but this, and other pieces of work begun at Chicago, were now necessarily laid aside.

In 1876, however, Professor Safford was restored to his favorite pursuits by appointment to the chair of astronomy at Williams College. In this position, teaching required much of his time, and of course largely impeded his attention to scientific investigation; he also acted as librarian of the College, and was at times engaged in other business connected with its administration. It is not probable that he felt the work of instruction to be a burden; on the contrary, he took great interest in the subject of pedagogy, which he studied theoretically as well as practically. Notwithstanding all hindrances to the pursuit of strictly astronomical research, he accomplished much in that direction during the years spent at Williamstown, devoting himself largely, as before, to the subject of accuracy in the determinations of the positions of fixed stars. One of the principal results of this work was the publication (in the Proceedings of this Academy, Volume XIX.) of a catalogue of the mean right ascensions of one hundred and thirty-three stars near the north pole; but many other articles in scientific periodicals, particularly the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, attest Professor Safford's perseverance and success in scientific work during his later years.

He died June 13, 1901, at Newark, New Jersey, where he was residing at the time with one of his sons. A stroke of paralysis, three years previously, had put an end to his activity in science. His widow, with four sons and a daughter, survives him.

ARTHUR SEARLE.